

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 5, 25, 26, 31, and 32 as set forth below. Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method, performed by a device having a processor, of detecting images and text in a master copy, the method comprising:

choosing a first background color from the master copy, wherein the master copy includes an image portion, a text portion, and an empty portion containing neither an image nor text;

condensing the master copy based at least in part on the first background color by omitting the empty portion to create a condensed copy of the master copy, the condensed copy containing ~~only~~ the image portion and the text portion;

transversely and vertically dividing the entirety of the condensed copy into a plurality of first areas;

for each of the first areas—

choosing a second background color from the first area;

determining whether the first area includes the image portion or the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;

if the first area includes the image portion, marking the first area as an image area;

if the first area includes the text portion, marking the first area as a text area; and

if ~~the a determination that the first area cannot be~~ includes identified as an the image area portion or a the text area portion is not made, then either marking the first area as an image area, or—

replacing the first background color with the second background color;
condensing the first area based at least in part on the second background color;
transversely and vertically dividing the first area into a plurality of second areas; and
for each of the second areas—

determining whether the second area includes the image portion or the text portion based at least in part on the second background color;

if the second area includes an image portion, marking the second area as an image area; and

if the second area includes a text portion, marking the second area as a text area,

wherein at least one first area is marked as an image area in response to the determination that the at least one first area includes the image portion or the text portion not being made;

processing, by the device, the image areas with halftone processing;
processing, by the device, the text areas with line art processing; and
outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the halftone processing comprises a dithering process.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the dithering process comprises a sampling mode dithering.

8-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a device having a processor, for identifying image areas and text areas in a document, the method comprising:

choosing a document background color based on the document;

creating a condensed document from the document by omitting areas that ~~contain neither image nor text~~ based at least in part on the chosen document background color;

dividing the condensed document into a plurality of individual areas;

for each of the individual areas,

choosing an area background color based on the individual area; and

~~identifying/determining if the individual area as containing contains image~~
or text based at least in part on the chosen area background color;

if the determination is that the individual area contains image, marking the individual area as an image area; and

if the determination is that the individual area contains text, marking the individual area as a text area;

if the determination that the individual area contains image or text is not made, performing an additional action;

for at least a first individual area for which the determination that the first individual area contains image or text is not made, performing an additional action includes marking the first individual area as an image area;

processing, by the device, ~~individual areas identified~~ marked as containing images areas with halftone processing; and

processing, by the device, ~~individual areas identified~~ marked as containing-text areas with line art processing.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document transversely and vertically into a plurality of individual areas, and the method further includes:

for at least a if one of the second individual areas-area cannot be for which the determination that the second individual area identified—as containingcontains image or text is not made, performing an additional action includes:

omitting sub-areas in the second individual area ~~that contain neither image nor text~~ based at least in part on the chosen area background color to create a condensed area;

dividing the condensed area into a plurality of individual sub-areas; and
for each of the individual sub-areas,

choosing a sub-area background color based on the individual sub-area, and

identifying the individual sub-area as containing image or text based at least in part on the chosen sub-area background color.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein identifying the individual area as containing image or text includes identifying the individual area as containing image or text based on bit depth distribution, the identified image area containing an image, the area background color, and the document background color, the identified text areas containing text, the area background color, and the document background color.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is different than the document background color.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein choosing an area background color includes choosing an area background color that is the same as the document background color.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a device having a processor, for identifying an image area and a text area in an original document, the method comprising:

choosing a document background color based on the original document;
creating a condensed document from the original document by omitting areas ~~that contain neither image nor text~~ based at least in part on the chosen document background color;

dividing the condensed document into at least a first area, and a second area, and a third area;

detecting a first area background color of the first area;

~~identifying-marking~~ the first area as ~~the a first~~ image area based at least in part on the detected first area background color, the first area containing at least an image and the first area background color;

detecting a second area background color of the second area;

~~identifying-marking~~ the second area as ~~the a text~~ area based at least in part on the detected second area background color, the second area containing at least text and the second area background color;

determining if the third area contains at least an image or at least text;
if the determination that the third area contains at least an image or at least text is not made, marking the third area as a second image area;

processing, by the device, the first and second image area-areas with halftone processing; and

processing, by the device, the text area with line art processing.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein dividing the condensed document includes dividing the condensed document transversely or vertically into at least the first area, and the second area, and the third area.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein outputting the processed images and processed text as a whole includes faxing the processed images and processed text.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising copying the master copy.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising faxing the processed areas.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising copying the document.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising faxing the processed image area and the processed text area.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising copying the original document.